

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-11 NEA-10

NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /109 W

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R 201204Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 567

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1710

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EEC, GR

SUBJECT: EC/GREECE: NEXT STEPS

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1128, (B) EC BRUSSELS 1356, (C) EC
BRUSSELS A-45

1. SUMMARY: THE EC COMMISSION WILL PROBABLY GET A DRAFT
NEGOTIATING MANDATE ON GREEK ACCESSION TO THE COUNCIL WITHIN
THREE OR FOUR MONTHS TIME AND APPROVAL IS EXPECTED IN ANOTHER
THREE OR FOUR MONTHS. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN
NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FALL. END SUMMARY.

2. ROGERSON OF THE EC COMMISSION DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR
EXTERNAL RELATIONS SAID THE COMMISSION SERVICES WERE NEITHER
PARTICULARLY SURPRISED NOR DISTURBED BY THE COUNCIL'S DECISION
ON GREECE ON FEBRUARY 9 (REFTEL B). THE COMMISSION DOES
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NOT BELIEVE THAT THE COUNCIL DECISION REALLY GOES VERY MUCH

FURTHER THAN THE COMMISSION OPINION ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGES IT PUTS THE AFFAIR IN A MORE POSITIVE LIGHT VIS-A-VIS THE GREEKS. TACTICALLY HE BELIEVES IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE COMMISSION'S OPINION HAD BEEN MADE IN A SUMMARY PRESS RELEASE RATHER THAN RELEASING AT LEAST PART ONE OF THE OPINION IN TOTO. ALTHOUGH THE JANUARY 30 RELEASE STUCK CLOSELY TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMISSION'S DOCUMENT (REFAIR C) ROGERSON BELIEVES THAT IT CAME DOWN TOO HEAVILY ON THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE COMMISSION COMMUNICATION AND WAS THEREFORE SOMEWHAT MISLEADING.

3. ROGERSON SAYS THE COMMISSION SERVICES HAVE NOT YET GOTTEN THEIR MARCHING ORDERS FROM THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) BUT HE ANTICIPATES THE COMMISSION WILL SOON BE INSTRUCTED TO DRAW UP A NEGOTIATING MANDATE. THIS SHOULD TAKE AT LEAST THREE OR FOUR MONTHS AND COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER THREE OR FOUR MONTHS, BUT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN IN THE FALL.

4. ROGERSON SAID THAT FROM THE COMMISSION'S POINT OF VIEW IT STILL DID NOT REALLY HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION IT WOULD NEED TO BEGIN SERIOUS WORK ON THE MANDATE BUT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT A SERIES OF SHUTTLE TRIPS BETWEEN HERE AND ATHENS WOULD FILL IN THE GAPS.

5. ROGERSON DOES NOT EXPECT GREECE TO BE ON THE AGENDA OF EITHER THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON APRIL 1 AND 2 OR THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON APRIL 5-6 BUT HE NOTES THAT THERE WILL BE A GREEK ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING IN THE BEGINNING OF APRIL, PROBABLY TIED TO ONE END OR THE OTHER OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL. HINTON

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